

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

February 23, 2000

WPS ENERGY SERVICES, INC.
Application for License to Operate
as a Competitive Electricity Provider
(Application to Amend License)

Docket No. 2000-93

ORDER AMENDING LICENSE

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and DIAMOND, Commissioners

I. SUMMARY

In this Order, we amend the license of WPS Energy Services, Inc. to operate as a competitive electricity provider in Maine pursuant to Chapter 305 of the Commission's Rules.

II. APPLICATION

On November 4, 1999, in Docket No. 1999-699, we issued an Order Granting License (Corrected) to WPS Energy Services, Inc. (WPS Energy) to operate in Maine as a competitive electricity provider, as provided in Chapter 305. That license authorized WPS Energy to provide standard offer service in the transmission and distribution utility service territories within the Maritimes Control Area. On February 2, 2000, WPS Energy applied to the Commission to amend its license.

A. Type of Service Proposed

WPS Energy proposes to "sell electricity and electric service to residential, commercial and industrial customers in all transmission and distribution regions within the State of Maine." WPS Energy's application states that the proposed licensee plans to "market to all customer classes and intends to compete both as a Standard Offer Provider and a Competitive Energy Provider (CEP)."

III. FINANCIAL ISSUES

A. Security

Section 2(B)(1)(a)(i) of Chapter 305 states that "a license will not be issued or remain in force until the applicant or licensee furnishes a surety bond or letter of credit"

meeting requirements of that rule. The initial security level is set by section 2(B)(1)(a)(ii) as \$100,000.

WPS Energy has furnished a surety bond in the amount of \$100,000 as its security instrument, with supporting materials as required by section 2(B)(1)(a)(iv) of Chapter 305. We have reviewed that instrument and find that it conforms to the requirements of Chapter 305.

B. Showing of Professional and Financial Capability

We find that the security instrument provided by WPS Energy as described above demonstrates that WPS Energy has financial capability to engage in its proposed business as a competitive electricity provider in Maine.

IV. TECHNICAL ISSUES

A. Showing of Technical Capability

WPS Energy, as a competitive electricity provider in Maine, must demonstrate it has the technical ability to enter necessary interconnection arrangements or contracts with Maine utilities, pursuant to section 2(B)(2)(a) of Chapter 305. In its initial application for a license in Docket No. 1999-699, WPS Energy provided information demonstrating its ability to enter into such arrangements or contracts, although it stated it had not yet reached such agreements. Accordingly, our Order Granting License in that proceeding directed that WPS Energy not act to enroll customers or provide generation service until all required contracts have been executed consistent with Commission rules. This Order Amending License retains that directive. WPS Energy shall notify the Commission when all such contracts have been executed.

Section 2(B)(2)(b) of Chapter 305 requires an applicant to demonstrate that it has the technical ability to secure generation or otherwise obtain and deliver electricity meeting all applicable requirements for the bulk power system control area in which the applicant would provide service. Our Order Granting License in Docket No. 1999-699 authorized WPS Energy to provide standard offer service within the Maritimes Control Area. WPS Energy filed information to demonstrate its technical capability to meet that requirement within the NEPOOL/ISO-NE portion of the Northeast Power Coordinating Council control area. We have reviewed that information and find that it complies with the requirements of Chapter 305. WPS Energy also documented that it will meet the NEPOOL transaction provisions required by section 2(B)(2)(b)(ii) of Chapter 305. WPS Energy stated that it “will not undertake the signing of customers outside Northern Maine until such times as all NEPOOL membership and technical requirements have been met.”

B. Resource Portfolio

WPS Energy, as a competitive electricity provider in Maine, pursuant to section 2(B)(4) of Chapter 305, must demonstrate its ability to meet the resource portfolio requirement of 35-A M.R.S.A. § 3210 and the portfolio requirement reporting rules in Chapter 311 of the Commission's rules. In its initial license application in Docket No. 1999-699, WPS Energy filed information to demonstrate its ability to meet these requirements in compliance with Chapter 305.

V. CONSUMER PROTECTION ISSUES

A. Showing of Fitness

In its initial license application in Docket No. 1999-699, WPS Energy provided information required by Chapter 305 section 2(B)(3) related to enforcement proceedings and customer complaints in compliance with requirements of Chapter 305.

B. Ability to Comply with Consumer Protection Rules

WPS Energy provided information demonstrating its ability to comply with the applicable consumer protection requirements of Chapter 305 and other consumer protection requirements pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 32 and other relevant provisions of Maine law. We have reviewed that information and find that it meets the requirements of Chapter 305.

C. Do-Not-Call List

Chapter 305 section 4(l) states that "[t]he Commission will maintain or cause to be maintained a 'Do-Not-Call' list of customers who have requested -- orally, in writing, or by commercially accepted electronic means -- that they not receive telemarketing calls from competitive electricity providers." We require that licensees use do-not-call list mechanisms already in place nationally to satisfy that requirement. To the extent that it telemarkets to Maine consumers, WPS Energy shall comply with the following requirements.

WPS Energy must comply with the requirements of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act,¹ the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act,² and related rules of the Federal Communications Commission³ and Federal Trade

¹47 U.S.C. § 227

²15 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6108

³47 CFR 64.1200

Commission.⁴ WPS Energy must comply with those requirements and must maintain its own do-not-call list as required by those laws and rules, for all intrastate and interstate telemarketing of Maine consumers, including both residential and business customers. WPS Energy shall not telemarket to Maine customers on that list, as required in Chapter 305 section 4(l)(1). WPS Energy shall update its do-not-call list at least monthly, and maintain copies of that list for at least six months. WPS Energy shall provide a copy of that list to the Commission upon request.

Further, each month, WPS Energy must obtain listings of Maine consumers who have arranged to be included on the do-not-call list maintained by the Telephone Preference Service of the Direct Marketing Association, Inc.⁵ WPS Energy shall not telemarket to Maine customers on that list, as required in Chapter 305 section 4(l)(1).

VI. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

WPS Energy must comply with all applicable requirements and limitations in Chapter 305 not explicitly waived in this Order. WPS Energy must also comply with all requirements and limitations in other applicable Commission rules, including any applicable future changes in Maine laws and Commission rules, and in other parts of this Order.

VII. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

Accordingly, we

1. amend the license of WPS Energy Services, Inc. granted in Docket No. 1999-699 to authorize WPS Energy Services, Inc. to operate as a competitive electricity provider in Maine, pursuant to Chapter 305 of the Commission's Rules;
2. order WPS Energy Services, Inc. to comply with all Do-Not-Call List requirements contained in Part V(C) of this Order to the extent that it telemarkets to Maine consumers; and
3. order that this amended license is effective on the date of this Order and valid until revoked by the Commission pursuant to section 3(A)(4) of Chapter 305, or abandoned by

⁴FTC Telemarketing Sales Rule, 16 CFR Part 310

⁵Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, Inc., P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

the licensee pursuant to sections 2(C)(9) and 2(C)(11) of Chapter 305 of the Commission's Rules.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 23rd day of February, 2000.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch

Nugent
Diamond

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 1004 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.110) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought.

2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73, et seq.

3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.